

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT IWW MEETING
TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 7, 2022
Chester Meeting House

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bisacky called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included: Kim Senay, Sally Sanders, Bill Bernhart, Bob Blair, Eric Davison, Michael Bellesiles and First Selectwoman Janecek. Also in attendance: Bria and Tyler Gilbert.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Bernhart made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022 meeting as amended. Bob Blair seconded the motion. The motion unanimously.

Correction: proper spelling: Bellesiles

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

CONTINUE SHOW CAUSE HEARING - Chester Airport, 61 Winthrop Road – unpermitted activity within review area – No report. Item tabled. Still under DEEP review.

CHESTER AIRPORT, 61 WINTHROP ROAD - unpermitted activity within review area – item tabled.

CONTINUED SHOW CAUSE HEARING – 213 Middlesex Avenue – unpermitted activity in inland wetlands and watercourses and upland review area.

The property owner was not in attendance. A letter was received from the property owner's attorney stating that the owner would conform to the regulations and the C&D order. However, to date, no clean-up has taken place at the property. The due date for action was 10/1/22.

AI will contract the Town Attorney to follow-up on next steps.

213 MIDDLESEX AVENUE - unpermitted activity in inland wetlands and watercourses and upland review area. No action taken.

20-3 TYLER AND BRIA GILBERT – modification of permit to include rain garden and fence installation (#22-14)

As discussed at the July 2022 meeting, the Gilbert's were considering the use of a rain garden to address drainage issues at their property. After further consideration, the preferred use of a

rain garden is not practical as it would hinder access to the yard. Ms. Gilbert distributed documentation relative to their proposal to “trench” the area to address drainage.

AI reported that the Connecticut Water Quality Manual provides guidance on methods, appropriate sizing, types of vegetation, etc. that can be used to address drainage issues.

The use of an infiltration gallery, similar to those used in septic system installations was also suggested. The applicant will provide engineered designs, including dimensions, materials and plantings, etc. for review.

There is access to the area at this time as equipment from the WPCA project remains on site. The applicant requested permission to dig now as this equipment is still at the property.

Ms. Gilbert reported that they have planted several trees and Knotweed on the property will be addressed (over several years).

Ms. Gilbert expressed concern about the length of the process for approval for the installation of the fence. They have 2 small children and the lack of a fence poses a significant safety hazard. The unanticipated length of the WPCA project added to the delay in installing the fence. The fence proposed is a 4 ft. split rail wood fence with black wiring. Agency members had no concerns with the proposed fence.

To shorten the process for approvals, the Agency will modify the original permit to include both the fence and drainage project contingent upon the applicant providing all information (location, sizing, capacity of infiltration, etc.) relative to the project to the IW Official for review.

A motion was made to modify permit #20-03 to allow for the installation of fence as presented on permit application #22-14 and to approve the use of infiltration galleries for the roof drainage system pending submission of design and locations (as discussed at the meeting). Said documents will be reviewed by the IW enforcement agent. Sally Sanders seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#22-14: Tyler and Bria Gilbert, fence installation – application withdrawn (see above).

CORRESPONDENCE - None.

RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS AFTER POSTING OF AGENDA – None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The January Agency meeting will be held on January 9, 2023 (due to the New Year’s holiday).

Randy Bernotas, IW Official, was welcomed to the Agency and he provided an overview of his background and experience including extensive work with the town of Middlefield. His hours in Chester are Monday afternoons and Friday mornings.

Agency members briefly discussed:

- An issue with IW permitting being “bypassed” during the Land Use permitting process. Charlene reported that the new “sign off” sheet will help to address this matter.
- The IW Regulations need to be updated.
- On Friday, 11/25, a Walking Trail, located at North Quarter Park will be dedicated to Anna.

ADJOURNMENT

Bill Bernhart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michael Bellesiles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk